

614-645-6428

Mayor Coleman and Residents Announce Six New Areas for Neighborhood Pride 2004

(Columbus) Mayor Michael B. Coleman joined with City employees and residents from across the City in the north-side Sharon Woods neighborhood today to kick-off the fifth Neighborhood Pride season.

“Neighborhood Pride works because the families in our neighborhoods get engaged in solving problems on the streets where they live,” said Mayor Coleman. “We need everyone - residents, businesses, schools, churches and the City - to work together to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. From code enforcement to house painting and from litter pick-ups to starting block watches, Neighborhood Pride is helping more families become active in the quality of life in their neighborhoods.”

The six new Neighborhood Pride districts for 2004 include: Sharon Woods; Peacekeepers Block Watch located on the East Side; Three Rivers neighborhood in South East Columbus; The Hilltop; Save Our Southside and the South Of Main neighborhood. Pride Teams will deploy a full array of city services over the course of a week in each area, including home safety and code inspections, alley cleaning, street sweeping, inspecting utilities and storm sewers, mowing, cleaning parks and leading volunteer efforts to remove litter and graffiti.

"Residents throughout this city place a high value on the quality of life and safety of their neighborhoods, and our mission is to be a helpful partner in their efforts to make their community clean and safe," said Mark Barbash, Director of the Department of Development. "We as a city are stepping up our efforts to ensure neighborhoods are rid of blighted and nuisance properties and we are excited to see residents joining with us to take on this challenge."

The Neighborhood Pride Program has evolved over the past five years to enhance the services provided to each neighborhood. The City has formed partnerships with area businesses through the Neighborhood Pride Partners program, and other government entities such as Metro Parks and Franklin County Department of Animal Control to provide bicycle safety and assistance with stray animals.

The Neighborhood Safety Academy, a continuation of Mayor Coleman’s four-point Neighborhood Safety Plan, will hold sessions in each of the Pride Neighborhoods this year. Participants of the Neighborhood Safety Academy will choose from a menu of possibilities of the curricula that best addresses their

needs, experience training with experts in the field, receive a Neighborhood Safety Action Guide, and recognition of their commitment to make their homes, streets, and community safer.

The six new Pride Districts will be added to the 30 neighborhoods that hosted Neighborhood Pride to date. Since 2000, the City employees have worked with residents in those areas to bring more than 4,600 properties into compliance with City Codes, removed 629 tons of bulk trash, trimmed nearly 1,400 trees in the public right-of-way, painted over 3,400 fire hydrants and repaired 832 streetlights.

2004 Pride Area Maps will be available shortly at www.columbus.gov